

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 13652 01 OF 02 080336Z

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /113 W

-----008809 080403Z /21

R 071845Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2342

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 13652

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, EINV

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 13652 01 OF 02 080336Z

SUBJ: WCL CONGRESS: A TURNING POINT?

REF: ECA-523, NOV. 30, 1976

1. SUMMARY: THE CONGRESS OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION
OF LABOR (WCL) IN BELGIUM LATER THIS MONTH WILL FEATURE
A DEBATE ON THE WCL'S INTERNATIONAL "ORIENTATION." THE

OUTCOME MAY MOVE THE WCL FURTHER LEFTWARDS, AND CLOSER TO THE COMMUNIST WORLD FEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (WFTU). END SUMMARY.

2. THE 19TH CONGRESS OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL) TO BE HELD IN KLEMSKERKE ON THE BELGIAN COAST OCT. 17 TO 21, WILL DRAW SOME 350 DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES FROM 80 COUNTRIES, ACCORDING TO WCL GENERAL SECRETARY JAN KULAKOWSKI.

3. THE WCL ADVERTISED ITS LAST CONGRESS, BEFORE IT OPENED IN SEPTEMBER 1973 IN EVIAN, FRANCE, AS A HISTORIC ONE IN THE "FUNDAMENTAL EVOLUTION" OF THE ORGANIZATION. NO SUCH FANFARE PRECEDES THIS CONGRESS, BUT IT MAY TURN OUT TO BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE ONE AT EVIAN, WHICH IS REMEMBERED TODAY MOSTLY FOR ITS PSEUDO-REVOLUTIONARY RHETORIC.

4. ALTHOUGH THE SAME RHETORIC WILL RING THROUGH THE KLEMSKERKE CONGRESS HALL, IN THIS INSTANCE IT MAY HAVE IMMEDIATE REPERCUSSIONS ON IMPORTANT EUROPEAN AFFILIATES. KULAKOWSKI HIMSELF ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE FRENCH CFDT MIGHT DISAFFILIATE (THOUGH, HE SAYS, NOT BY WALKING OUT AT THE CONGRESS ITSELF). THE PROBLEM IN THE CFDT, KULAKOWSKI EXPLAINS, IS THAT SOME OF ITS LEADERS THINK THAT THE CFDT CAN BE MORE EFFECTIVE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 13652 01 OF 02 080336Z

INTERNATIONALLY AS AN INDEPENDENT, NON-AFFILIATED FORCE; THERE IS NO CONFLICT OVER "ORIENTATION" AS SPELLED OUT IN REPORTS PREPARED FOR THE CONGRESS.

5. AT LEAST ONE OTHER IMPORTANT AFFILIATE, THE DUTCH NKV, DOES HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THAT ORIENTATION, ACCORDING TO VARIOUS LABOR SOURCES HERE. THE NKV, WHICH HAS JOINED FORCES WITH ITS SOCIALIST COUNTERPART ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL, BELIEVES THAT THE WCL SHOULD HAVE DONE LIKEWISE ON THE WORLD LEVEL WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU). COMMENT: FROM SECTIONS OF THE CONGRESS REPORTS WE HAVE SEEN, THE WCL IS HEADING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION--FURTHER AWAY FROM THE ICFTU AND CLOSER TO THE RADICALIZED LABOR CENTERS. END COMMENT.

6. A LABOR OFFICIAL FROM OUTSIDE THE WCL SUMS UP THE STRUGGLE THIS WAY: "THE WCL HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN TORN BY A LEFT AND A RIGHT, AND IT LOOKS AS THOUGH KULAKOWSKI DECIDED TO STOP WALKING DOWN THE MIDDLE AND MOVE TO THE LEFT."

7. THE WCL HAS LONG THOUGHT OF ITSELF AS A "REVOLUTION-ARY FORCE" DEDICATED TO "THE COMPLETE LIBERATION OF THE WORKERS AND A RADICAL TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIETY," AS STATED IN THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES IT ADOPTED IN 1968 WHEN IT TRANSFORMED ITSELF INTO THE WCL FROM THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN TRADE UNIONS. THE KLEMSKERKE CONGRESS WILL BE CALLED UPON TO PUT SOME TEETH INTO THOSE PRINCIPLES.

8. ONE CONGRESS REPORT TITLED "FOR RENEWED UNION ACTION AGAINST MULTINATIONALS," DESCRIBES WESTERN TRANS-

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 13652 02 OF 02 080341Z
ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /113 W
-----008882 080400Z /21

R 071845Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2343
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 13652

NATIONAL CORPORATIONS AS EXPLOITERS OF THE THIRD WORLD
AND CALLS UPON ALL LABOR TO UNITE IN "EFFECTIVE COMBAT"
AGAINST THEM.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 13652 02 OF 02 080341Z

9. ANOTHER DOCUMENT, THE WCL "ORIENTATION REPORT,"
TITLED "FOR THE RENEWAL OF WORLD TRADE UNIONISM,"
HOLDS THAT THE WCL IS ORDAINED TO GATHER TOGETHER AT
LEAST SOME OF THE DISPARATE ELEMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL
LABOR. THE CONGRESS' PROGRAM ITSELF CAN BE SEEN AS
PART OF THE STRATEGY TO CAST THE WCL IN THIS UNIFYING
ROLE.

10. THE AGENDA DISTRIBUTED BY KULAKOWSKI LISTS THE
WCL'S TWO RIVALS, THE ICFTU AND THE WORLD FEDERATION
OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (WFTU), AS SENDING SPEAKERS.
(THE ICFTU AND THE WFTU WERE INVITED TO THE EVIAN
CONGRESS AS OBSERVERS, NOT SPEAKERS, AND BOTH SENT
LOW-LEVEL OFFICIALS.)

11. ADDING A FURTHER GLOSS TO THE WORLD LABOR
SOLIDARITY THEME AT KLEMSKERKE, THREE REGIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS--THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION
(ETUC), THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN TRADE UNION UNITY
(OATUU), AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF ARAB
TRADE UNIONS (ICATU) --ARE ALSO SCHEDULED
TO BE REPRESENTED ON THE SPEAKERS' ROSTRUM. THE
MIMEOGRAPHED AGENDA DOES NOT LIST NAMES, BUT MATHIAS
HINTERSCHIED, ETUC GENERAL SECRETARY, TELLS US HE WILL
REPRESENT HIS ORGANIZATION, WHICH INCLUDES KEY WCL
AFFILIATES. JUST WHO WILL REPRESENT THE OTHER
ORGANIZATIONS IS NOT YET CERTAIN.

12. WHAT INVITEES TO THE CONGRESS SAY THERE WILL BEAR
CAREFUL SCRUTINY IN VIEW OF THE ORIENTATION REPORT.
KULAKOWSKI GAVE FOUR BRUSSELS-BASED LABOR ATTACHES
A SKETCHY ORAL SUMMARY OF THAT AND THE OTHER CONGRESS
REPORTS, BUT HE DECLINED TO RELEASE COPIES. THANKS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 13652 02 OF 02 080341Z

TO A LABOR SOURCE OUTSIDE THE WCL, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE
TO OBTAIN EXCERPTS FROM THE ORIENTATION REPORT.

13. THE REPORT DEALS KINDLY WITH THE WFTU. ON THE

ONE HAND, IT ACCURATELY DESCRIBED THE WFTU AS BEING UNDER SOVIET DOMINATION AND AS HAVING ITS MAJOR STRENGTH IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE REPORT SAYS THAT "ONE CANNOT IGNORE THE ATTRACTION, DIRECT AND INDIRECT, THAT THE WFTU HOLDS IN THE THIRD WORLD, IN OPPOSITION TO THE POLICY OF THE ICFTU AND THE AFL-CIO." FURTHER, IN A SENTENCE THAT THE WFTU SHOULD BE ABLE TO QUOTE PROUDLY, THE REPORT CALLS THE WFTU "AN AUTHENTIC TRADE UNION REALITY, EVEN IF ITS ORIENTATION DOES NOT SUIT US IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHERE COMMUNISTS ARE NOT IN POWER."

14. SO FAR, THE REPORT POINTS OUT, THE WCL HAS LIMITED ITSELF TO "CHATTING" WITH THE WFTU; BUT SINCE THE WFTU IS "SLOWLY EVOLVING," CLOSER COOPERATION MIGHT BE POSSIBLE WITHIN "OUR GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR THE RENOVATION OF WORLD TRADE UNIONISM," THE REPORT SAYS, ADDING: "THE NEXT WFTU CONGRESS, IN APRIL 1978, WILL PERHAPS PERMIT US TO SEE THINGS MORE CLEARLY."

15. AS ALLIES IN A RENOVATED WORLD LABOR MOVEMENT, THE REPORT CITES NOT ONLY REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS--THE OATUU, THE ICATU, AND ("TO A LIMITED DEGREE") THE ETUC--BUT ALSO SOME NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: SOHYO IN JAPAN, THE FBSI IN INDONESIA, THE ICTU IN IRELAND, THE CJTU IN YUGOSLAVIA, AND (AGAIN "TO A LIMITED DEGREE") THE CGIL IN ITALY.

16. COMMENT: THE WCL PLANS MAY BE FAR-FETCHED, BUT SHOULD PROVIDE SOME INTERESTING DEBATE AT KLEMSKERKE.HINTON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRUSSE13652
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770367-0850
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771085/aaaactwm.tel
Line Count: 254
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5a66e634-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SIL
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1002956
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WCL CONGRESS: A TURNING POINT?
TAGS: ELAB, EINV, ICFTU, WCL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5a66e634-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009